

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/576,407

Confirmation No. 5417

Applicant: Karsten HOFFHAUS et al.

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Examiner: Patrick F. Brinson

Docket No.: 811844

Customer No.: 95402

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed September 28, 2010, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I (claims 1-24), drawn to a pipe segment.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. The Office Action has required election between Group I (claims 1-24) and Group II (claims 25-29). It is respectfully submitted that the claims of Groups I and II relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because these claims include the same corresponding technical feature. Contrary to the Office Action's assertion, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of Group II do require the particular structure recited in the invention of Group I. See Office Action at page 2, section 2. The Group II claims 25-29 depend ultimately from independent claim 1 via intervening dependent claim 23.